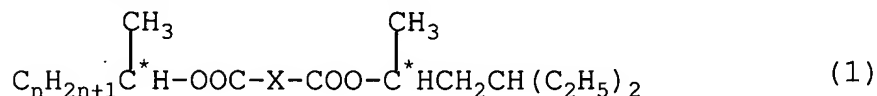


Amendments to the Claims

1. **(Original)** An optically active compound of the general formula (1),



wherein n is an integer of 4 to 8, X is -Ph-COO-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-OOC-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-Ph-, -Cy-COO-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-OOC-Cy-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Cy-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Np-COO-Ph-, -Np-OOC-Ph- or -Ph-COO-Np- in which -Ph- is a 1,4-phenylene group, -Cy- is a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group and -Np- is a 2,6-naphthylene group, and C* is an asymmetric carbon.

2. **(Original)** The optically active compound of claim 1, which has the general formula (1) in which n is 5 or 7.

3. **(Original)** The optically active compound of claim 1, which has the general formula (1) in which X is -Ph-COO-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-Ph- or -Ph-Ph-OOC-Ph-.

4. **(Original)** The optically active compound of claim 1, which has a helical twisting power (HTP) of 10 or more.

5. **(Original)** The optically active compound of claim 1, which induces a helical pitch and has a property that the induced helical pitch decreases in length with an increase in temperature.

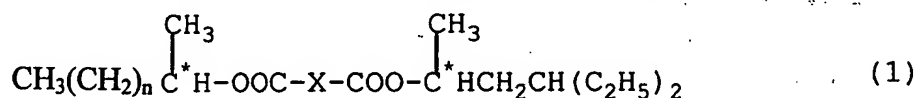
6. **(Original)** The optically active compound of claim 1, wherein two asymmetric carbons shown in the general formula (1) are R-configuration isomers together or S-configuration isomers together.

7. **(Original)** A chiral dopant of the general formula (1) in claim 1 for a nematic liquid crystal.

8. **(Original)** A nematic liquid crystal composition containing at least one member compound of the optically active compound of the general formula (1) in claim 1.

9. **(Original)** A liquid crystal display device having the nematic liquid crystal composition recited in claim 8 interposed between substrates having an electrode each.

10. **(New)** An optically active compound of the general formula (1),



wherein n is an integer of 3 to 7, X is -Ph-COO-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-OOC-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-Ph-, -Cy-COO-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-OOC-Cy-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Cy-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Np-COO-Ph-, -Np-OOC-Ph- or -Ph-COO-Np- in which -Ph- is a 1,4-phenylene group, -Cy- is a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group and -Np- is a 2,6-naphthylene group, and C* is an asymmetric carbon.

11. **(New)** The optically active compound of claim 1, which has the general formula (1) in which n is 4 to 6.